



The QSO

From the President...

SARL has weathered the storm and 2008 will be the year membership numbers are going to increase dramatically!

A bold prediction! Well, we can do it if we really want it!!

Over the past decade our organization like many organizations in the amateur radio world have had challenges with not only dwindling numbers and decreased participation, we have struggled with our purpose! What does the last and only provincial amateur organization in Canada do with itself? With our aging population, the Internet, and our techno-savvy younger generation, many of the things we did to recruit new members or enthusiasts do not seem to work?

Well, the answer is here and it has been here all along. We need to concentrate our efforts to be prepared for emergencies and public service. We need to build up our communication capability and training to the point in which we can be counted on when we are called upon by the province, municipalities and the general public!

We can do this! We have the technology, we have the will and we will have the resources. We have an incredible opportunity to do the things our hobby was intended for - for helping others! In the process of helping others, we will be helping ourselves.

In the coming months and weeks stay tuned to your email bulletins and the QSO from SARL (if you are not subscribed please let us know) and we will be sharing with you the expansion of the Provincial Radio Network, a provincial club station, a provincial APRS network and other exciting developments and action within our province in the vision of a purpose filled amateur radio community that is FUN!

As I add to this original article from January, I am proud to add that a Web based Internet remote base and a Kenwood SkyCommand remote base system is being experimented with right now and may end up being a prototype for a provincial club station! Imagine all you apartment dwellers being able to work HF via the Internet...imagine being able to work HF via a handheld...well this is now a reality and if you are interested in getting involved, contact ve5sd@sasktel.net for more information. If there is enough interest, this summer we plan a demonstration of this fantastic system.

73,

Derek - VE5SD SARL President

Secretary/Treasurer's Report: Val – VE5AQ

First off, I would like to thank those amateurs who sent in their outstanding dues. This is greatly appreciated.

As you may have heard, Moose Jaw now has 3 new members, Brian Olson, VE5BJO, Rick Yuke, VE5RFY and Jordie Richardson, VE5JRD. That makes 3 new members for SARL. I would really appreciate it, if any of the clubs around Saskatchewan would please send me the names of any of their "New" members, those that have finished their classes and are now hams, or as soon as your classes have finished and the candidates have passed their exams. The more we welcome into the hobby the better. As you may or may not know, new amateurs are given membership into our fraternity, free of charge for the first year. They also receive the QSO, and a crest, but if I don't know about the new hams, I cannot add their names to our membership roster and mailing list. So please email me their names and callsign. My email address is ve5aq@sasktel.net. The more the merrier. Also, it gives me more names to add to the pot to see who gets the SARL New Amateur Trophy.

On a sad note, Rick, VE5RFY and his wife Joanne, laid their 18 year old daughter Hanna to rest January 5, 2008. Hanna was a lovely young lady, very interested in the Girl Guide Movement, Cadets, and was also an Honour Student at Riverview Collegiate. Our sympathies, condolences and prayers go out to Rick and his family.

HAMFEST: I have had several folks email and phone me regarding the location of the next hamfest. That is a very good question. This does not have to be a big deal. A one day event works just as well as a full weekend. Some of the smaller clubs around the province figure they can't accomplish such a big thing. Yes you can. You just need a place to hold the fleamarket. If you charge admission, that belongs to your club. SARL does not have anything to do with what you do with your take on the hamfest. SARL will give you up to \$200.00 for seed money, and you can use that money for whatever you need to, be it hall rental, or other logistics. So if you are a small club, looking for ways to gain some much needed funds for your club, why not think about holding the 2008 hamfest. Yes, you need to start now, as we are already heading into April/May. Letters to prospective donors are not difficult to write up. One master letter is all that you need. All SARL wants is a couple of tables for registration/renewals, and a place to hold our annual AGM. I am willing to help out with typing, and announcing on HF if required and with anything else that you need help with. No folks, I am NOT going to do the next hamfest. There has to be some club out there that can do this. Please think about it and get back to me ASAP. Time is running out. It will benefit you local community, legion or restaurants etc, and your club will be the heroes of the year. I will bring any trophies that are required.

SARL has installed the latest IRLP node number 1882 in Moose Jaw.

MELVILLE & AREA: VE5HAW

Hello all from VE5HAW. I would like to thank Val (VE5AQ) for coming on board as a Net Control station, on Thursdays. The Saskatchewan 2 meter link net is on the Saskatoon reflector 9300 Monday through Friday at 9 PM. As net manager, I say don't be shy if you would like to try a night as net control, just let me know as we can always use another one or two NCs on the net. You can email me at ve5haw@sasktel.net get hold of me on IRLP node 1858 and we will set you up. It is a lot of fun; just ask Val (VE5AQ), Stan (VE5SC), Devon (VE5DWR) or the vacationing Randy (VE5QU).

Other things happening up in the Yorkton/Melville area are coming along just like spring. One minute it's here and the next it's snowing. So everyone have a great day, and hope to hear you all on the 2 meter net, just to say hello. Bye for now till next time. Take care. 73 Harvey, VE5HAW (the other Harv—haw, haw)



REPEATER INFO by RANDY MOLYNEAUX: VE5RJM

Would all hams please take a look at the following website, and let me know if the information is accurate or changes need to be done:

http://nwham.com/repeaters/includes/Displays_SS.php?state_id=CA11&band=%&freq=%&band6=%&loc=%&county_id=%&call=%&status_id=%&features=%&system=%&coverage=%&use=%

I am currently the moderator for this page, but if someone else wants the duty, I will show them how easy it is to keep things up to date, providing you get the right information. Otherwise I will keep it up to date. Like most of us, we have had over the years, many pages with not so up to date information, and I would gladly keep this page current. I have currently abandoned our own listing of Saskatchewan repeaters as I have now a direct link to the above webpage. I have been in contact with a few club members around the province and they seem to like the idea. I know our own provincial webpage is also out of date, causing frustration to out of town travelers. See what you think and please get back to me.

73

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SOUTHEAST SASKATCHEWAN: JOE MUSGRAVE, VE5CEM

Hello to all from Saskatchewan Southeast. My name is Joe Musgrave. The Amateur Radio scene in the SE has started out slow and low key. We don't have much planned in Weyburn so far this year. At some point we will be installing an HF (G5RV) antenna at the Fire Hall and testing the rig and antenna. It will then be ready for emergency operations.

In this article, I would like to mention some things regarding the Saskatchewan Incoming QSL Bureau. The following article is taken from the Regina Amateur Radio Association Webpage. Look in the "around town and province" area, in the Local Section to find it. This was put in by Bj Madsen the previous QSL Bureau Manager. I have updated it to reflect the change.

The RAC VE5 Incoming QSL Bureau by Joe Musgrave, VE5CEM

The VE5 Incoming QSL Bureau is operated by Joe Musgrave, VE5CEM. The QSL Bureau system remains the most reliable and certainly the least expensive way to exchange confirmations of contact with other amateurs worldwide.

While the various awards programs, like the coveted DXCC, continue to require QSL cards as proof of contact, these cards are very important to many DXers. The Bureau system is anything but fast. It typically takes at least six months to get a card from the U.S. and often several years from some of the Old Russian republics. If you need that QSL card right away, don't use the Bureau! Send it direct, accompanied by a SAE and a "green stamp". But if time is less important than economy and reliability, the Bureau system is for you.

Most QSL cards for Canadian amateurs come to the Canadian Incoming QSL Bureau, where they are initially sorted by prefix. When sufficient cards have been accumulated for a zone, the National Incoming Bureau boxes them up and sends them to the appropriate Provincial Incoming Bureau.

In the case of Saskatchewan, because we have so few amateurs who operate DX to any extent, this happens only about three times a year. Some countries opt to send their outgoing cards directly to the provincial bureau instead of the national bureau, so cards "dribble" in, a few dozen at a time, from various sources. Even individuals, keen to get that rare VE5/VA5 card, sometimes send cards to the bureau if they don't know the address of the station they worked. As cards come into the bureau, they are sorted

alphabetically, by suffix this time and when enough have accumulated to justify the cost of postage, are mailed out to the individual hams, if that amateur is current with the bureau.

The Incoming QSL Bureau system is a completely volunteer system. That is, it is supported entirely by volunteer labour and costs of postage and envelopes must be borne by the amateurs who receive the service. The VE5/VA5 bureau operates on a cash basis. That is, amateurs send money to the bureau manager (\$5.00 at least) who then supplies postage and envelopes and debits the amateur's account when cards are mailed out. Each mailing is accompanied by a statement of account and a request for additional funds when appropriate. If you are operating HF, particularly if there is no credit in your account, the cards received for you will be destroyed. How do you avoid losing your valuable QSL cards? Simple, send some money (at least \$5.00) to your incoming QSL Bureau Manager, along with your mailing address. Please make Cheques payable to RAC SK QSL BUREAU. When Cards accumulate for you, they will be mailed out. The VE5/VA5 QSL Bureau address is:

RAC Incoming QSL Bureau
729-5th St
Weyburn, SK
S4H 1A4



Some Points to Remember When DXing & Contesting:

1. If you are going to use a special call or prefix for any operation & expect to get cards, send me an e-mail with that information. I have found that sometime these calls do not make the special call list in the RAC Web Page.
2. If you are going on expeditions & will be getting cards sent to your QTH, please send me an e-mail with the information.
3. Most people send money to cover the cost of postage etc. There seem to be a few that will arrange a card pickup or transfer via a 3rd party. For those people (they seem to be the ones that have the most cards) please keep in mind that the bureau is a clearing house operation not a warehouse operation. Arrange to have your cards moved within 3 to 4 weeks of notice given. Thank you. I do have a paper shredder that always seems to be looking for something to chew on.
4. If you are accepting cards for more than yourself in your mailing please let me know. If that arrangement changes please let me know.
5. When sending money by Cheque or money order, make it payable to
RAC SK QSL Bureau.

6. Most Important: If you move to a new QTH please let me know. Also send that information to Industry Canada or RAC office so the call list can be updated. The same people should be notified of a Silent Key event. Keep your information up to date in the RAC call list. That is the official list the Bureau looks to when finding calls.

I should be in a position to do a complete mailing of cards by mid to end of February. Then the mailings will be as needed to keep the cards moving in a timely manner.

Anyone in the S.E., That has information, events or stories for inclusion in the QSO is welcome to send them to me at the above mentioned address. If you would like an SARL membership I can help you out there too.

The following statement was taken from the RAC Web page. I hope they don't mind me using it. I do believe it is true and we need to keep that in mind as we enjoy the hobby. We all need to be ready to lend a helping hand if someone should ask.

“Amateur Radio exists as a frequency spectrum user because it qualifies as a service. Its continued existence depends to a great degree not on the service it has performed in the past, or on its simple potential for service, but on what service it is performing now and will continue to perform in the future.”

That is all for this time.

73 Joe VE5CEM

S. E. Rep. SARL/SK. Incoming QSL Manager

MOOSE JAW HAPPENINGS de VAL, VE5AQ

Hello all. As you have read in the Sec/Treas report, Moose Jaw now has 3 new members welcomed into the fraternity known as Radio Operators, a.k.a. "Hams". Our classes ended on Dec 13/07. These three fellas were very keen to get into the hobby, and have gotten involved with our club and the community. Great to have you all on board.

Our next activity will be the Moose Jaw Model Train Show. We do security making sure that everyone stays behind the ropes and do not touch the trains. Last year was a real eye-opener for me, as I never knew that grown men, worked so hard at a hobby, but the displays are awesome. If you are in Moose Jaw, April 5th and 6th, 9:00 – 5:00 both days, please come to the Western Development Museum and take a peek at the Model Train Show. Also happening in Moose Jaw, on April 12th also at the WDM is the Moose Jaw Amateur Radio Club fleamarket. Admission is \$5.00 per person, which includes a table if you so desire. The rope drops 9:00 AM and goes until 2:00 PM. If more information is required, please get hold of Brenda at ve5trg@sasktel.net. I am hoping that I will have a SARL table, but not sure yet.

Lastly, I wish to thank SARL for the MJ IRLP. Several of our hams are really enjoying a new way of chatting with fellow hams. Special thanks to Devon, VE5DWR who came down to MJ to do the installation.

Well, that's it for now, nothing else new in our neck of the woods. Most of our snow is gone here in the Jaw, with just a bit left on the North side of the house. Soon it will be garden time.

FROM THE WORKBENCH: Capacitors-Testing, Parameters & Magic: de Harv, VE5AC:

This component has mystified me for many years. As a teenager who got interested in electronics right after Sputnik went into space, I always believed that capacitors had an element of magic in them. How many of you can remember your dad saying that the '55 Chevy wouldn't start because the condenser was shot. This unit was the heart of the car, something like the new "smoke theory" in the IC's now.

In the '50's teen crowd if you knew about or were interested in electronics, you were considered to be a nerd. That eventually changed after they found out you could fix their radios, record players and cars.

Resistors, coils, tubes, diodes were okay – but the mighty capacitor controlled the roost. Everybody had to have a capacitor tester. Fig 1 and Fig 2 are two types that were used back then. They were called Capacitor-Leakage Testers. The biggest bugbear of early capacitors was leakage through the dielectric. The testers operated as: 1 blink of a neon light indicates the capacitor is good. Constant blinking of the neon light shows leakage, and constant light indicates a short. These testers were not good on electrolytic capacitors, but excellent on all others. I built one tester for myself and one for the local garage mechanic, and the next thing I knew, I had six orders from local farmers for this magic Go-No-Go condenser checker. Now the lowly capacitor and I were getting some recognition and glory. So much for regular paper and distributor and lawnmower capacitors.

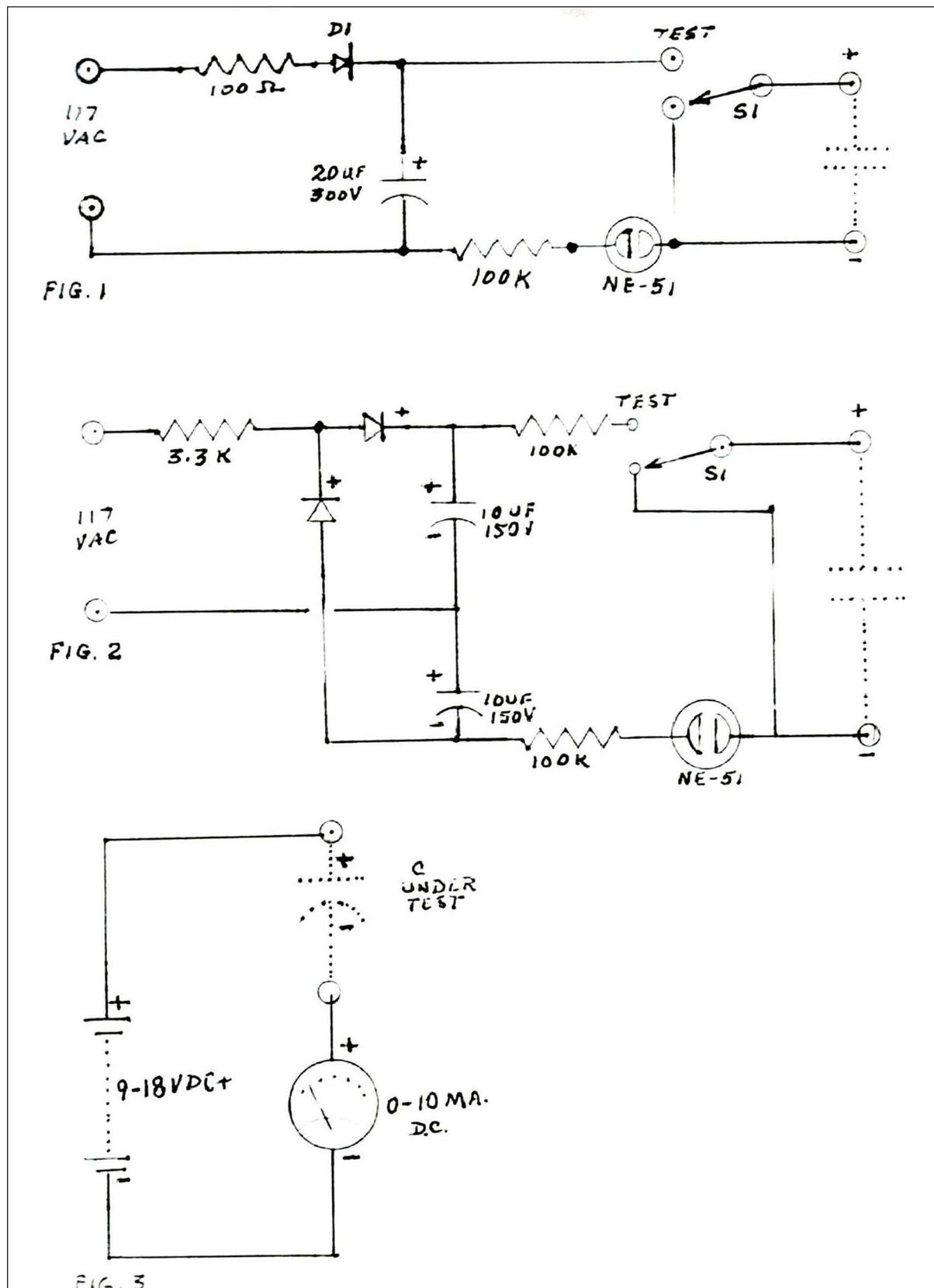
Then an Electronics Illustrated magazine published the maximum leakage rates for electrolytic capacitors. Now we knew how to test them and the allowable specs. Fig 3 and Fig 4 show the checkout hookup and specs for a Go-No-Go checker. So now we are starting to get respect. We have come a long way. Do you remember building your first capacitor with 3 pieces of window pane from the old barn and 2 pieces of tin foil? Works-doesn't it.

So next time someone says your audio is mushy, don't blame your microphone, it could be your first audio input capacitor, and now you know how to check it.

To test capacitors, I still use the trusty cap-leakage tester, the Heathkit CM-1 direct reading capacitance meter and the digital LC meter. Note that a digital meter will not compensate for

leakage, this is important if fixing a switching power supply where capacitor values should be matched, and of low leakage. So be aware that any piece of radio gear eight or ten years old probably has capacitors in it that are out of spec.

Above all, exercise caution in using power operated test equipment even if using an isolation transformer. Hope you enjoyed the article and don't believe that capacitors are magic.



LEAKAGE-CURRENT LIMITS (3-100 VDC)

Capacitance (μ f)	Current (ma)	Capacitance (μ f)	Current (ma)
1	.31	100	1.3
2	.32	125	1.55
5	.35	130	1.6
10	.4	150	1.8
20	.5	200	2.3
25	.55	250	2.3
30	.6	500	5.3
40	.7	1,000	10.0
50	.8	1,500	10.0
70	1.0	2,000	10.0
80	1.1	3,000	10.0

Deadline for next QSO: May 16, 2008. If you will all please send your article to me, I will get the next issue of the QSO out by the end of May. My email address is: ve5aq@sasktel.net . If possible, please send in .doc format, and send pictures as attachments. Thanks so very much, greatly appreciate your help.

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The Fine Print:

The QSO is published on a regular basis for the membership of the Saskatchewan Amateur Radio League (SARL). The purpose is to provide Saskatchewan and other amateurs, and those interested in radio communications and electronics with information on matters related to the science of communication. Unsolicited articles, reviews, features, letters to the editor, criticisms, photographs and essays are welcome. Manuscripts should be legible and include the name and address of the contributor. A signed article expresses the view of the author and not necessarily that of SARL.

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